

Audubon

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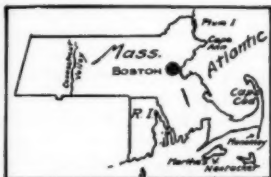
1946

SPRING
MIGRATION

SECTION II AUDUBON FIELD NOTES

Edited By Margaret Brooks Hickey

BOSTON REGION.—March was almost as extraordinarily warm as last year. By the 29th the temperature had accumulated 356° in excess of normal,



but it returned to normal on the 30th; last year the excessive heat persisted to mid-April. This year April was as nearly average a month meteorologically and ornithologically as is possible. May began very cool, but temperatures remained average thereafter. Its chief characteristics were the lack of any marked warm spells, and the high percentage of overcast, drizzly, or rainy days with easterly winds (although the total rainfall was about average). The clear nights with southwest winds that brought flights changed the next day to leaden and dripping skies; cold and wet enthusiasts contended with well-developed foliage and very poor light in their search for the mostly silent throngs of migrants. There were far more than the average numbers of species and individuals, but conditions for observation were trying and difficult. A great wave on May 11, followed by another on the 12th, produced a great list and some spectacular counts of certain species that had been late to arrive in numbers. Another great wave on the 17th held over one day because of bad weather. A small flight on the 25th was followed by a severe southerly storm in the form of a 3-day northeast gale. A late flight came on May 31, and a few transients trickled through until June 6. With Guy Emerson, 143 species were recorded on May 25.

A combination of favorable circumstances made it possible for a party to spend 11 hours at sea off Cape Cod on May 23 and visit shoals 20 miles from Chatham between Monomoy Point and Nantucket. Over 30 species were recorded from the boat, 17 of them out of sight of land.

Loons.—Red-throated loons appeared in good numbers all spring; 33 common and 13 red-throats were seen migrating north on May 23.

Pelagic birds.—A total of 110 sooty shearwaters was observed on May 23, the greatest number ever noted in New England waters in one day; with them were 2 greater shearwaters. Two Leach's and 150 Wilson's petrels were seen on the same date. The earliest previous Massachusetts date for the latter species was May 30. Over 90 gannets were also seen at sea on May 23, a date when the "last stragglers" are supposed to occur.

Hérons.—As usual in recent years, there were a few scattered records of the 3 southern herons. Least bitterns appeared in fair numbers. The early general arrival of the American bittern in March was one of the features of that month.

Waterfowl.—The Canada goose flight was good. There were several reports of greater snow geese, which are now of regular occurrence each spring, even on the coast. The spring flight of ducks was exceedingly poor, much the worst in 15 years. Black duck, baldpate, pintail, wood duck, scaup, and golden-eye were notably down in numbers.

Hawks.—The flight was good near the coast in March and early April, but poor everywhere thereafter. The number of goshawks was most unusual. A gyrfalcon in the light or gray phase was very well seen coming in over the ocean at Plum Island on April 28 (Francis Elkins, Griscom, Mazzeo).

Grouse.—These birds were at the lowest ebb that I can recall in 20 years in eastern Massachusetts.

Rails.—This group had a very good spring flight. Breeding gallinules increased. King rails were found in 4 places near Boston. A yellow rail was heard calling in the meadow at Newburyport where I found it last summer.

Shorebirds.—There was a gratifying increase of woodcock, with a record high count of 23 individuals along Perkins Row in Essex County on April 14. Snipe arrived remarkably early in March, but the flight was very poor. The main shorebird flight

was very good, but not significantly different from the last 2 years. Only the northern half of the old Monomoy flats could be reached on May 30, but it contained an estimated 150 knots, 2000 turnstones, and 30,000 peep.

Laridae.—Over 300 ring-billed gulls in late March and early April at Newburyport indicated a further increase of this species. All 3 kinds of white-winged gulls remained late, and a glaucous gull was seen at sea off Cape Cod on May 23. Terns were generally late in arriving, but started the breeding season in excellent numbers. The Arctic tern is steadily increasing, but the roseate appears to be decreasing at the moment. Unique in history were arrival dates for black skimmers at 3 localities.

Land birds.—The spring migration did not commence unusually early, nor were there the number of remarkably early general arrivals as last year. There were, however, a number of exceptionally early stray individuals. April was quite colorless, with no marked waves. Indeed, many species that "arrived" on time remained scarce for the balance of the month, outstanding cases being the hermit thrush and the white-throated sparrow. This accumulated reserve of missing birds and the unfavorable weather during the first 10 days of May fully accounted for the tremendous waves of May 11 and 12. On May 12, the regular Essex County route yielded 500 swifts, 150 catbirds, 100 black and white warblers, 40 black-throated blues, 200 yellow-throats, and 50 orioles. Another great wave on May 17 gave a record count of 300 thrushes at Nahant, 150 oven-birds, and nearly 100 water-thrushes. Among the rarer species in these waves were the chat, the hooded, cerulean, and orange-crowned warblers, and a fish crow in Mt. Auburn, Cambridge. An even rarer warbler in eastern Massachusetts than the ones just mentioned is the Louisiana water-thrush, which Karplus found in Cambridge in late April.

Snowy owls were seen on every trip to coastal marshes in April, and one straggler was noted in May! Flocks of evening grosbeaks remained until mid-May, and stragglers persisted to the 29th.

Rarities.—After the southern storm, an adult West Indian brown booby was seen on May 30 off North Beach, Orleans, the second record for New England. It was seen by Griscom, Mr. and Mrs. C. Russell Mason, W. Cottrell (all of them familiar with it in life), Henry Parker, and Wallace Bailey. The same party found a first-winter Franklin's gull the same day at Monomoy; it was standing beside a laughing gull; every character was noted at shot-gun range and the bird had been picked out at a much greater distance. An adult male Harris's sparrow turned up at a feeding station in Ipswich on March 29 and remained until May 10; throughout this period it was in full song. It was seen by well over 100 people.—LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge 38, Mass.*

NEW YORK REGION.—A series of unusually warm days in late March was followed by cool weather for the first half of April, and then by ab-



normally warm weather during the latter half of that month. April precipitation was somewhat below average, but some rain was recorded on 20 days of the month. Prevailing

winds were northwest and moderate. Although the monthly mean temperature for May was about normal, the first half of the month was cool while the second half was above average. Rainfall was unusually heavy, more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches above normal and some rain fell in the region on 20 days of the month. Wind was normal, but fogs were numerous.

The movement of migrating robins started on Long Island in early February, about 2 weeks ahead of normal expectation. Fox sparrows were coming through in numbers by the second week of February. The early arrival date of cowbirds was unprecedented; 2 were displaying at Garden City, L.I., on March 3, and the species was present there in some numbers by March 12 (J. T. Nichols). Early tree swallows were migrating through Westfield, N.J., on March 9 (Woolfenden).

Throughout April, arrivals were normal as to date but low in individual numbers. Birds flowed through steadily, but there was no migration of wave proportions until May 6. On this day a well-defined wave occurred throughout the entire region. The second wave reached the region on May 11 and 12, and extended to May 13 in New Jersey. Many of the rarer warblers arrived at this time. A third wave came in on May 17-19, bringing the later warblers. In this wave were Canada warblers in unusual numbers. Between the second and third waves the flight was steady, and at no time were migrating birds scarce. The waves maintained flat peaks, as it were, with steady migration between. During the entire migration the number of individual birds seemed to be below normal. The day of maximum species was May 18, when a group from the Urner Club recorded 171 species.

Pelagic birds.—Greater shearwater, 2, June 9, Atlantic Beach (Bull); sooty shearwater, 170, near Westhampton, L.I., May 25 (Peck, Wells); Wilson's petrel, 750, Lower Bay and Ambrose Channel, June 10 (Elliott).

Geese.—Canada goose, 6000, March 31, Mecox, L.I. (Wilcox); brant, 3000 at Merrick throughout April, and 150 at Little Egg Harbor, May 12 (C. K. Nichols); snow goose, 220, Merrick, April 6 (Bull, Rose).

Ducks.—Canvas-backs were more plentiful than usual, particularly in Long Island Sound; ring-necks were down in numbers throughout the region; no

European widgeons were reported, and few European teal.

Hawks.—In general the spring flight was not good, although a few reports showed some rather good flocks of broad-wings. A black vulture was seen at Montauk, L.I., February 12 (Stone, Wells).

Shorebirds.—The woodcock flight was better than usual. Ten upland plovers arrived at South Plainfield, N.J., April 22 (Woolfenden), and small flocks were seen on the Hempstead Plains, L.I. (Elliott). The curlew sandpiper was reported at Moriches, May 30 (Astle, *et al.*), and a willet at Oak Beach on May 23 (Darrow). Other shorebirds were numerous well into June, with the numbers of knot, dowitcher, and Hudsonian curlew definitely up.

Land birds.—Cuckoos were early: yellow-bill on April 29 and black-bill on May 1, both at Ridgewood, N.J. (C. K. Nichols). The last snowy owl reported was at Moriches, L.I., April 19 (Aronoff, Wells). Robins and Baltimore orioles were both more plentiful than usual. A yellow-throated warbler (subsp.?) was found in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, May 10 (Whelan, Wells). Among the rarer warblers, the Tennessee, Cape May, and mourning appeared to be up in numbers, but the bay-breasted was scarce. A lark sparrow was seen in Central Park, May 10 (Fry).

Evening grosbeaks lingered late. On Long Island the last report came from Baldwin on May 15 (Teale), while in New Jersey the final report was on May 20. At the feeding station of Mrs. R. H. Baker in Ridgewood a small flock of 6 arrived on December 6, 1945 and by the end of that month had increased to 75; this number was maintained with but slight fluctuation throughout March. On April 30 the last adult male left, leaving a few females and immature males. For a few days before they departed, the adult males were singing, but rather indifferently. On May 10 the last immature male left, and on May 20 the one remaining female was last seen.—CHARLES K. NICHOLS, *American Museum of Natural History*, New York 24, N. Y.

PHILADELPHIA REGION.—March was unusually mild. April temperatures were about normal, and the month was unusually dry. The foliage at the end of April appeared about as it should normally be in mid-May. Although the temperature average was normal, this average did not give a true picture, as temperatures varied considerably from day to day. Rainfall for the month was well above average.

Gannets.—There was a marked northward movement of these birds throughout March. Observers

saw many diving for fish in the ocean just beyond the breakers. There were 50 between Ocean City, Md., and Bombay Hook, Del., March 10 (H. Cutler, *et al.*). Among numerous records from the New Jersey coast was one of 40 birds at Fortescue on March 30 (Edwards, Brown), which is interesting in that there seem to be few if any records of this bird from upper Delaware Bay.

Waterfowl.—While the late March duck flight was rather light on the whole, Cutler *et al.* reported 14 species seen entirely within the boundaries of the State of Delaware on March 31; this included 250 canvas-back. At Somers Point, N.J., 36 brant were seen on May 26, a late date (Darby).

Hawks.—Few broad-winged hawks were noted this spring. Perhaps more than the usual number of red-shouldered hawks were observed during early March.

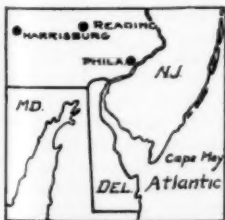
Shorebirds.—Hordes of shorebirds passed northward along the New Jersey coast during May; dowitchers and turnstones were well in the lead in numbers.

Terns.—Black terns were unusually abundant on the Delaware River at Philadelphia on May 11 and 12; groups of 2-5 individuals were noted.

Small land birds.—The May migration of warblers, vireos, thrushes, etc., averaged about normal, but heavy foliage prevented good observation. There was a distinct wave from April 30 to May 2; the great bulk passed through between May 10 and 15. Good warbler lists were obtained, although semirare species did not appear to be numerous. Evening grosbeaks, which were so common throughout the winter, lingered in small numbers into May. At Ocean View, Cape May Co., N.J., there was a flock of 10 on April 25 (Fox). The latest record was from Burlington County, where there were several birds at Mt. Holly on May 16 (Pumyea).

On the annual D.V.O.C. roundup held on May 12, the 20 groups covering the Philadelphia Region listed 212 species, including 33 species of warblers. The most unusual record was that of a cerulean warbler (Mohr, *et al.*). Other rarities listed were: Caspian tern near Beverly, N.J. (P. Street, R. Miller); yellow rail, Springton Reservoir, Delaware Co., Pa. (Rigby); blue grosbeak, 1 at Woodbury, N.J. (Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Middleton), and 1 at Philadelphia (E. and Q. Kramer); olive-sided flycatcher, Media, Pa. (Conway, McKurdy).

Other spring records of interest.—At Tuckerton, N.J., there was 1 oyster-catcher on April 12, and 2 on April 21 (R. M. Lockwood). Bobolinks were unusually abundant, with numerous flocks containing 6-50 birds being reported from May 5 to 15. A golden eagle was observed at Martha, N.J., April 14 (E. and Q. Kramer). Mr. Parry reported 2 white-crowned sparrows on May 12 at Wyncote, Pa., white-throat singing on May 30 in Gwynedd Valley, Pa., and a red-bellied woodpecker from May 8 to 15 at Roslyn, Pa.—J. K. POTTER, 437 Park Ave., Collingswood, N.J.



CAROLINA REGION.—COASTAL SECTION.—Temperatures were nearly normal, and rainfall a little over normal during May.

Populations.—Small birds showed no noticeable fluctuation in numbers. There were fewer Bonaparte's gulls than usual. Ducks seemed to be scarcer than normal. Shorebirds showed up well, with astounding numbers of Hudsonian curlews at the Cape Romain (S.C.) Refuge, where A. H. DuPre reported a population of some 40,000 using the refuge; the previous high was 5500 in the spring of 1937. Reports from North Carolina indicated normal, rather small numbers.



Migration.—Among winter residents, song sparrows, white-throats, and myrtle warblers left somewhat early, with few stragglers. Three orange-crowned warblers seen near Charleston on May 11 constituted a record 3 weeks later than normal (Lanyon, Kahn). A red-breasted nuthatch that had fed at a window tray in Wilmington, N.C., since December was last seen on May 3 (Rohwer). A house wren on May 5 at Charleston and a robin on May 22 at Bulls Island, S.C., were also late to depart.

Summer arrivals were mainly normal, but hummingbirds were late. Summer tanagers reached Beaufort, N.C., on the early date of April 6 (T. L. Quay, *et al.*), despite being late near Charleston on April 22 (Metcalf) and at Cypress Gardens, S.C., on April 12 (Lanyon). Similarly, a male painted bunting was somewhat late at Charleston on April 19, but another was quite early at Beaufort, N.C., on April 6 (T. L. Q., *et al.*).

Among transients, a flock of about 70 tree swallows contained 15 subadult birds; only a few had a trace of blue above, on the crown. Scarlet tanagers, scarce along the coast, were seen near Charleston on April 20 (L., K.) and on May 11 (E. Simons), and near Southport, N.C., on May 18 (H. T. Odum, *et al.*). A pair of Kentucky warblers near Charleston on May 19 was late to arrive (E. A. Williams); the species is known to breed some 60 miles inland.

Nesting.—The breeding season of small birds was normal, and there were the usual colonies of herons, white ibises, least and royal terns, and black skimmers. The colony of brown pelicans at the Cape Romain Refuge was the finest yet reported, with some 800 nests (Peters, DuPre).

Unusual.—A man-o-war bird was observed off Southport, N.C., May 18 (Rohwer, Odum, *et al.*).

INLAND SECTION.—Temperatures were a little above normal during April, a little below in May; rainfall was above normal during both months.

Mrs. Bachman at Henderson reported waves of migrants as follows: April 11, hermit thrushes and myrtle warblers; 16th, wood thrushes and myrtle warblers, the latter again on the 24th; 29th and 30th, warblers, mostly hooded, parula, and myrtles; 30th, the best day for migrants during the season. At Chapel Hill, Odum noted that migrants from the south were a little late, but winter visitors left for the north a little early. Swifts were first seen on March 24 at Roanoke Rapids (Hearne) near the northern border of the region, next on the 30th at Spartanburg (Cannon) near its southern edge. Blue-gray gnatcatchers were observed at Columbia (Mrs. Charles) on March 21, Fayetteville (Scarborough) on the 18th, Spartanburg on the 31st, and Durham (Jones) on April 3. Yellow-throated warblers appeared at Fayetteville and Spartanburg on March 17, and at Chapel Hill on April 6. White-eyed vireos arrived at Columbia on March 27, Spartanburg on the 21st, and Chapel Hill on April 1. Summer tanagers were seen at Columbia on April 9, Spartanburg on the 19th, Statesville on the 20th, and Henderson on the 22nd. Wood thrushes reached Columbia on April 3, Spartanburg on the 14th, and Chapel Hill on the 10th.

Later migrants were: wood pewee at Columbia on April 20, Statesville on the 29th, and Henderson on May 1; indigo bunting at Spartanburg on April 24, Statesville on the 29th, and Fayetteville on the 28th; blue grosbeak at Spartanburg on April 12 and Chapel Hill on May 6.

Last records for winter visitors were: white-throated sparrow, Henderson, May 11; fox sparrow, Henderson, May 19, unusually late but apparently reliable, seen at close quarters on feeding board; ruby-crowned kinglet, April 22 at Pittsboro (Hearne); junco, April 28 at Roanoke Rapids (Hearne); myrtle warbler, Henderson, May 15, and Pittsboro, May 22; evening grosbeak, Pittsboro, April 29.

MOUNTAIN SECTION.—At Tryon, Holmes stated that the warbler migration was hardly noticeable; he thought that the trees leaved out so early as to cause the birds to pass on more rapidly than usual. Mrs. Grinnell at Asheville reported an unusually early hummingbird on April 3, the oven-bird on the 4th, and yellow warbler and yellow-throated vireo on the 9th. She observed 20 species of warblers in Roscraggon Wood on May 5-7. Cape May warblers arrived on the 10th. At Tryon, Williams noted 40 species of birds between April 22 and 29. Among them were the red-breasted nuthatch, the cerulean, golden-winged, black-throated green, blackburnian, and worm-eating warblers, veery, and ruby-crowned kinglet, all on the 29th, pine siskin on the 26th, and rose-breasted grosbeak on the 28th. Odum saw a Connecticut warbler at Boone on May 12 (white eye-ring noted at 10 yards with 8x binoculars).—E. B. CHAMBERLAIN, *Charleston Museum, Charleston, S.C.*, and C. S. BRIMLEY, *N.C. Dept. of Agriculture, Raleigh, N.C.*

PENSACOLA (FLA.) REGION.—A dry April ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch of rain) between 2 wet months (March, 13 inches; May, $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches) tells the weather story of the period. Temperatures for the 3 months were normal or warmer.



The present season, coming after 2 successive springs of exciting and profitable field observation, was a decided anticlimax. The bad weather of March and May came too early and too late to interfere seriously with the trans-Gulf influx of

migrants from the tropics, while the dry April allowed the incoming flights to pass over the region unhindered (and unnoted)—to the disappointment of the expectant observer on the ground. Only a single "norther" (April 17, light rain, chilly north wind) halted passing migrants even temporarily, resulting in the presence on April 18 of a typical "hold-over" group: a swarm of orchard orioles, a few each of wood thrushes, hooded warblers, indigo buntings, scarlet and summer tanagers, and the real rarities, Baltimore oriole (1), painted bunting (5), and rose-breasted grosbeak (2). Lacking space here to discuss the peculiarities of the trans-Gulf spring migration, the reader can now be referred to an excellent article by G. H. Lowery, Jr., in *The Auk* for April 1946, for the first adequate presentation of this little-known phase of bird movement.

To save space, names of the observers responsible for the reports recorded hereinafter are abbreviated: Miss Lennie Pate (P.); Alan Sheppard (S.), Lt. K. R. Tanner (T.), Mrs. A. L. Whigham (W.), and Mrs. J. F. Wernicke (M. W.). Where no observer's name is appended, the responsibility for the record is mine.

Notable items of the migration were: white ibis, several flocks, totaling 500 birds (S.), March 6 (earliest ever recorded, by 4 days); white pelican, 3 flocks, totaling 525 birds, March 31, and smaller flocks on April 17 (M. W.) and 27; Arkansas kingbird, the only known spring occurrence in 30 years, March 31.

Other arrivals included: purple martin, February 6 (W.); osprey, February 22 (T.); little blue heron, March 10 (S.); parula warbler, March 12 (W.); chimney swift, March 14 (W.); summer tanager (W.), March 16 (earliest ever recorded, by 6 days); Louisiana water-thrush (rare) and green heron, March 17; ruby-throated hummingbird, March 18 (W.); eastern kingbird (W., earliest ever recorded, by 2 days) and solitary sandpiper (M. W.), March 19; hooded warbler, March 21 (T.); lesser yellow-legs, March 23; rough-winged swallow (M. W.) and red-eyed vireo (P.), March 25; prothonotary warbler, March 26 (M. W.); orchard oriole, March 27

(W.); yellow-throated vireo, March 30 (T.); snowy egret, broad-winged hawk, Wilson's plover, pectoral sandpiper, and crested flycatcher, March 31; prairie warbler (rare in spring), April 4; indigo bunting, April 5 (W.); wood thrush, April 6; Cabot's tern and scarlet tanager, April 7; chuck-will's-widow, April 8 (M. W.); oven-bird (P.), nighthawk and blue grosbeak (earliest ever recorded, by 1 day), April 10; barn swallow (M. W.) and redstart (M. W.), April 11; painted bunting (very rare), April 13; least tern and yellow-billed cuckoo, April 14; Baltimore oriole (so rare as to be considered accidental), April 17 (T.); rose-breasted grosbeak, April 18; spotted sandpiper (T.) and olive-backed thrush, April 20; gray kingbird (earliest ever recorded, by 5 days) and Philadelphia vireo (S., very rare), April 21; Hudsonian curlew (rare), April 24 (T.); magnolia warbler, April 25 (T.); veery, April 28; black tern (earliest ever recorded, by 1 day) and gray-cheeked thrush (T.), May 4. On May 19, black terns were more numerous (500 est.) than I had ever before known them in spring. The yellow-throated warbler, usually a common breeder, was absent this last spring; repeated searches in March and April of typical nesting areas revealed only 2 singing males.

Departure dates included: horned grebe, last seen on March 24; phoebe (S.), brown creeper (latest ever recorded, by 7 days) and robin, March 31; American golden-eye, April 7; orange-crowned and prairie warblers, April 13; field sparrow (M. W.) and yellow-bellied sapsucker, April 14; redstart (T.) and tree swallow (except for one much-belated straggler on May 30 and June 5), April 17; black and white warbler, April 18 (T.); savannah sparrow, April 20; house wren (M. W.), gannet (rare) and ruby-crowned kinglet, April 21; coot and greater yellow-legs, April 28; blue-winged teal (T.), Bonaparte's gull (T.) and myrtle warbler (W.), April 29; lesser scaup, May 4; red-breasted merganser, spotted sandpiper, olive-backed thrush, magnolia warbler, oven-bird, scarlet tanager, and indigo and painted buntings, May 5; white-throated sparrow, May 7 (W.); gray-cheeked thrush and catbird, May 8; rose-breasted grosbeak, May 10 (W.); lesser yellow-legs, May 11; semipalmated plover, May 12; cedar waxwing, May 14 (W.); yellow warbler, May 15 (P.); barn swallow, May 18; solitary sandpiper, May 19; purple finch (W.), May 20 (latest ever recorded, by 20 days); least sandpiper, May 26; dowitcher (latest ever recorded, by 3 days), semipalmated sandpiper and sanderling, May 30. Double-crested cormorants were still present on June 11. The sanderlings of May 30 were birds in full nuptial plumage; gray birds are present in small numbers all summer.—FRANCIS M. WESTON, 2006 E. Jordan St., Pensacola, Fla.

OHIO-MICHIGAN REGION.—The weather this spring resembled that of the most unusual season a year ago, and the pattern of bird migration was



similar. The warmest March in Weather Bureau history was followed by a normal April (averaging cooler than March at many stations) and a chilly May. Vegetation was about 3 weeks ahead of schedule, but, although some of the migrants of the first 2 months were a little early, the whole movement was accelerated only slightly. The May arrivals were delayed and did not appear at

any time in concentrations sufficient to earn the description "wave." The result was a disappointing spring for most observers.

With the early thaw in the north and the scarcity of standing water in the fields of this region, the waterfowl moved through so rapidly as to reinforce the impression (probably accurate) that ducks, excepting the wood duck, are declining in numbers again. The American egret, arriving in early April, is now seen regularly in small numbers in northwestern Ohio.

The snowy owl invasion left remnants in northern Michigan as late as the first week in May. Reports for the State in fall, winter, and spring totaled 1500, of which 800 were for birds shot. This unprecedented count is explained partly by the efforts of C. T. Black to gather the data and partly by the unusual public interest in the invasion.

The warbler migration was late and unspectacular. Many people had not yet seen by May 10 as many species as they sometimes see by May 1. The first week-end permitting respectable counts was that of May 18-19. Relatively few were seen a week later. Heavy foliage on the trees added to the problems of observation in May.

Purple finches were among the few birds of the spring seen in more than the usual numbers. They were at their maximum in late April and early May, feeding with goldfinches on the seeds of elms.

The migrant shrike, never very common, has become quite rare within the last 2 or 3 years in northwestern Ohio. Comments on this bird from other parts of the region would be of interest.

The scattered flight of evening grosbeaks in Ohio was still yielding occasional records in April. Hicks reported seeing a total of 500 in 24 counties of Ohio during the cold months.

Rarities.—The most remarkable rarity of the season was a wood ibis near Wilmington in southwestern Ohio on May 5 (Hazard, Thomas). This appears to be the first record for this bird in Ohio since 1879. A European teal discovered on May 11 on the Pennsylvania side of Pymatuning Reservoir

was barely outside the boundary of this region but deserves mention because it does not fall within any other region covered in these pages (Cook, Skaggs, *et al.*). The European widgeon was noted at Pymatuning on March 30 (Skaggs) and in 2 places near Toledo on March 30 and April 20 (Van Camp).

The willet, extremely rare in central Ohio, was noted on 2 occasions in May near Columbus (Rickley, Lovell, Thomas). A knot and northern phalarope, both in breeding plumage, were seen on May 26 in a marsh in southeastern Michigan (Mayfield). A golden eagle passed over the Lake Erie islands on March 23 (Walker), and another (immature) was seen near Toledo on April 7 (Van Camp).

A western meadowlark was located near Columbus on May 5 (Borror, Thomas) and near Toledo on May 28 (Van Camp). Six pine grosbeaks visited Holland, Mich., on March 13 (Dayton, Black). The brownish western juncos occasionally seen in this region among the slate-colored juncos offer a puzzling variety of intermediates. Among 3 at Columbus about the beginning of April, one was an Oregon junco (subsp. *montanus*) and the others were the western race of the eastern junco (subsp. *cismontanus*) (Thomas).

A Bachman's sparrow on May 13 near Dearborn, Mich. (Miller, O'Reilly), was the second record of this southern species for the State, the first having been noted a year ago.—HAROLD MAYFIELD, 2557 Portsmouth Ave., Toledo, Ohio.

MIDDLE WESTERN REGION.—February and March were unseasonably warm, with temperatures averaging 12°-14° higher than normal. April was



normal but cool weather in May upset migration. The excessive precipitation of March was followed by a marked deficiency in April and normal moisture in May.

Concentrations of mallards that had wintered at various points in the Middle West moved northward very early—during the first week of February at Yankton, S.D., with none observed after February 15 (Larrabee), and on February 10 at Springfield, Ill. (Eifert). Pintails were noted by Eifert at the same time and place. All species of waterfowl appeared during February and March without the usual large concentrations in April. With few exceptions, observers reported decreases in numbers of ducks ranging up to 50 per cent. Scaups and

shovellers were generally found in reduced numbers, while ruddy ducks and blue-winged teal showed increases.

The Canada goose flight began on February 27 both at Quincy, Ill. (Musselman), and at Rockford, Ill. (Bennett), with 1400 birds noted on March 9 and 10. The height of the flight came on March 19 at Yankton, S.D., the last flock being observed on April 9. Reports of these birds in any large numbers were lacking, which confirmed conclusions of flyway biologists that the Mississippi flyway Canada goose must now be considered an endangered species. In the 7 years since 1938, almost 85,000 geese have been taken at Horseshoe Lake in southern Illinois—an average of 12,000 a year. When the 1945 season closed, there were estimated to be only 18,000 geese left on this wintering area. Alexander County, in which the State refuge is located, is to be closed to all Canada goose shooting in 1946.

Blue and snow geese moved northward through the Missouri River valley at least 10 days earlier than usual. A flock of 300 white-fronted geese was reported with 25,000 blue and snow geese in Fremont County, Iowa, March 10 (Musgrove), but these were the only white-fronts reported. The eastward drift of blue geese, particularly noticeable in 1945, was nearly lacking this spring, 4 birds at Des Moines, Iowa, March 3 (Musgrove) being the only ones noted.

On March 16, Musgrove observed about 50,000 cranes, probably all little browns, near Lexington in south-central Nebraska along the Platte River.

A single red-throated loon was carefully observed in Lincoln Park, Chicago, April 20 (Nork, Clark), and at Springfield, Ill., May 5 (Eifert). One American egret was seen at Lake Springfield on the same date (Eifert), and 2 in Morgan County, Ill., on May 19 (McElroy). An adult yellow-crowned night heron was found along the north branch of the Chicago River in Harms Woods near Skokie from May 1 to June 4 (Mrs. P. A. Stephenson and many members of the Evanston Bird Club).

Shorebirds were present in a better variety than during the past 2 years. Pectoral sandpipers were noted on March 31 at Springfield (Eifert). Golden plovers were seen at the same place on April 5 (Eifert) and on May 4 (Bonney); in Chicago, Clark observed single birds flying over Lincoln Park on April 30 and May 5, but on May 25 he observed one on the ground for the first time in the spring. Black-bellied plovers were noted by Clark on May 12 and 15 in Chicago, while Mrs. G. E. Engstrom found 19 on May 30 near Wadsworth, Ill. Killdeer had young on April 28 at Evanston (Stevenson) and on May 5 at Springfield (Eifert). The upland plover continued to show favorable increases, with birds present well within the Chicago city limits. It was recorded on April 8 near Quincy (where Musselman estimated about one pair per mile), on April 13 at Belvidere, Ill. (McMaster), and at Springfield, April 18 (Bonney).

Six Wilson's phalaropes were found at Wolf Lake, Chicago, May 12 (Nork, Clark), and 1 bird was seen by members of the Chicago Ornithological Society on May 19 northwest of Waukegan. Two Hudsonian godwits seen on May 8 at Waterloo, Iowa (Mrs. J. M. Barlow), and 1 on May 12 at Yankton, S.D. (Larrabee), were the only reports of this rare bird.

There were only 2 reports of Caspian terns: April 20 in Chicago (Clark); 3 on April 17 at Springfield (Eifert). A Forster's tern was identified in Chicago on May 21 (Clark).

Red-breasted nuthatches, which were present in the Chicago area later than usual—12 at Waukegan on May 12 (Stevenson, DuMont), 3 at West Lafayette, Ind., May 14 (Burr), and 1 at Egger's Grove, Chicago, May 18 (Nork, Clark)—were entirely absent from other reports. A single evening grosbeak lingered until May 12 in Oakwood Cemetery, Chicago (Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Decker, Nork, and Clark). The latter observer found pine siskins on April 20 and May 22 in Lincoln Park, Chicago. Golden-crowned kinglets on May 19 at Lake Forest, Ill. (Smith), were late. Musselman reported the biggest purple finch flight in years at Quincy.

Waves of warblers reached Chicago on May 9 and 10, but with only 50 birds of 9 species (Bartel). At Rockford, Ill., Bennett considered warbler movements along the waterways as "heavy" from May 12 to 23. Practically all other observers described the migration as being scattered and late, with few if any definite waves. On a May 12 trip to Waukegan, Stevenson and DuMont identified 15 species of warblers (temp. 45°-58°) among not more than 150 individuals, and on May 18, there were 22 species among 300 individuals. Unusual observations included: myrtle warbler on April 1 and Louisiana water-thrush on March 31 at Quincy (Musselman); Brewster's warbler on May 15 at Springfield (O'Brien), on May 22 at Lake Forest (Smith), and May 26 west of Deerfield, Ill. (Engstrom); pine warbler, April 27, Chicago (Clark), and May 18, Springfield (Bonney); hooded warbler, May 23, prairie warbler, May 12 and 15, and Cape May warbler, May 18, all in Chicago (Clark). A palm warbler on May 19 and a myrtle on May 22 in Lake Forest (Smith) were late. Tennessee and blackburnian warblers on May 26 at West Lafayette, Ind., were also late (Burr).

Larrabee reported a Harris's sparrow on March 14 that had wintered at Yankton. Normal migrants reached Yankton on May 6 and 13. One was seen at Quincy on May 5 (Musselman), and another in Lincoln Park, Chicago, on May 11 (Nork, Clark). Musselman had excellent luck banding white-crowned sparrows and identified several Gambel's in the hand. Another Gambel's was seen by Clark on May 9 in Lincoln Park. A Leconte's sparrow on March 8 at Springfield was early (O'Brien).—PHILIP A. DuMONT, Evanston, and ELLEN THORNE SMITH, Lake Forest, Ill.

MISSOURI REGION.—Spring temperatures in the vicinity of St. Louis were the highest in 86 years. February was 5.8° above average, followed by an



excess of 13.1° in March, and 5.0° in April. May dropped to 4.5° below average. A slight deficiency in precipitation during the first 3 months was followed by an excess in May. There were no serious floods and water

levels remained rather low. Vegetation was at least 2 weeks ahead of schedule by mid-April. Warm weather in the spring seemed to speed up such early migrants as waterfowl, killdeer, mourning doves, and phoebes; cool weather in late April and May delayed the movement of warblers and shorebirds.

The northward movement of waterfowl began with an influx of thousands of mallards and pintails into the Big Lake Refuge near Blytheville, Ark., during the last week of January. On February 2, about 600 ruddy ducks, 500 American mergansers, 300 American golden-eyes, and smaller numbers of lesser scaup, ring-necks, and canvas-backs were seen on Reelfoot Lake, Tenn. Many cormorants and ring-billed and herring gulls were also present. Of the large numbers of Canada geese wintering at Horseshoe Lake, Ill., many had moved on at this date. Charts prepared by James L. Bradley, who spent much time in the field in northwestern Missouri, showed mallards at a peak in late February and almost all gone by mid-March; pintails reached their highest numbers on March 15; American mergansers were common in late February and early March; baldpates reached their peak in late March, but some were still present on May 1; green-winged teal were scarce by late March; shovellers were common during the last half of March and early April; a good flight of blue-winged teal reached its peak late in April. The gadwall was reported as scarce over most of Missouri, although common in eastern Kansas. A cinnamon teal was observed near Lawrence, Kan., on April 6 and 7 (Boyd). Observers agreed on the general scarcity of diving ducks. A flock of about 200 red-heads with a few canvas-backs was observed on Sugar Lake, Platte County, March 17. Otherwise there were only scattered reports of individuals of this species.

There was a fair flight of geese (blues, lesser snows, and Canadas) over Missouri from mid-February to late March, the flight reaching a peak of 10,000 birds at the Swan Lake Refuge during the first week of March. The white-fronted goose was observed at Kansas City, March 12 (Werning). Curtis Allen of the Fish and Wildlife Service stated that duck flights through Missouri have been definitely down for the last 2 years.

A few small flocks of broad-winged hawks were seen in various parts of the State in late April and early May. Jackson reported many hawks, mostly red-tails, at Grafton, Ill., on March 3, and 9 bald eagles on the same date. Eight more bald eagles were seen on the Swan Lake Refuge on March 17.

The shorebird flight, although somewhat delayed, was the best in 5 years, due, perhaps, to low water levels and the resulting extensive mud flats. Both species of yellow-legs, and pectoral, least, and semipalmated sandpipers were common around St. Louis and Kansas City. The semipalmated plover was generally common in late April and early May. All observers in western Missouri and eastern Kansas reported numbers of Wilson's phalaropes during the first 3 weeks of May. The golden plover was seen at Bean Lake on April 28 (Werning). Five red-backed sandpipers were reported from St. Charles County on May 26 (Comfort). Willets (probably western) were observed at St. Louis on May 6 and 26, and at Kansas City on May 24. About the best shorebird records, however, were of 5 Hudsonian godwits seen at Lawrence, Kan., on May 4 (Boyd) and the Hudsonian curlew at Kansas City on May 19 (Hedges). Two eared grebes in full plumage (rather rare in that area) were seen on Lake Quivera on May 11 (Hedges).

Migrant sparrows came in early and such common species as the white-crowned, white-throated, fox, song, vesper, and savannah were well represented. Clay-colored and Lincoln's sparrows were reported in numbers from the west. Flocks of 75 to 100 Harris's sparrows were seen near Kansas City on March 31 (Werning). Baird's, Leconte's, and Henslow's sparrows were reported in larger than usual numbers in various parts of the State. Gambel's sparrow was noted at Kansas City on May 2 and 15 by several observers. Purple finches were very common in central Missouri around Jefferson City and Columbia from March 7 to April 20. Of particular interest were 3 or more records of the painted bunting in localities south and west of Kansas City on May 17 and 26 (several observers).

Warblers and thrushes arrived late, and dense foliage made their observation difficult. Such common species as the Tennessee, Nashville, yellow, and blackpoll were plentiful, but the less common forms like the chestnut-sided, magnolia, mourning, and Canada were seen in much smaller numbers than last year. The Cape May warbler was seen only at St. Louis and the bay-breasted, common in 1945, was not reported at all. A few hours spent in the swampy woods of Big Oak Park, Mississippi County, May 9, revealed over 100 prothonotary warblers, about 50 ceruleans, 15 Grinnell's water-thrushes, and 12 hooded warblers. The gray-cheeked thrush was seen in greater numbers than usual this spring and there were many opportunities for comparing its song with that of the more common olive-back.—JAMES W. CUNNINGHAM, 515 S. Kings-highway, Sikeston, Mo.

TEXAS COASTAL REGION.—March and most of April were abnormally dry, bright, and warm. A severe drought was broken by rains on April 16-17; an unseasonable cool spell came on April 23; and, beginning on April 30, heavy rains fell at least once a week during May.



General observations.—The fine weather of the early spring was good for the birds, but

bad for their observers. The first migrants doubtless went past without stopping, and few early dates were recorded. Nevertheless, the information accumulated for the late spring was extraordinarily complete.

No large migrating flocks of hawks, anhingas, or gulls were reported. But a trip from Houston to Rockport on May 4 revealed a great migration of dickcissels all the way; Mr. and Mrs. Gill, coming from Dallas to Rockport on that day, reported that the migration extended several hundred miles in the interior. The hordes of migrant species observed immediately after the 3 periods of bad weather in April, as well as in May, showed no scarcities. Hudsonian godwits and American bitterns made the best showing in 15 years.

Departures.—Departures of wintering species tended to be early, coinciding with the fine weather of early spring. But sparrow hawks at Rockport on May 1, and at Cove on April 26, were a month late; the same was true of cedar waxwings at Houston on June 3, and blue-gray gnatcatchers at Houston on June 2. All species of geese appeared to be gone from the entire coastal region by the first week in April; they had begun migrating northward in the Galveston Bay region on February 24. Only a few scattered ducks remained at the end of April; and even the late-lingering blue-winged teal was not abundant after April 25. Redheads (which had a uniquely good season on the lower Texas coast) were last reported at Rockport on May 6; and the last canvas-back was at Cove on April 21. An interesting phenomenon of the region is that, although the distance between the Corpus Christi and Cove regions is about like the distance between Washington and New York, departure dates for the 2 areas are often about the same, or even later for the more southerly region. Thus, the last date for Wilson's snipe at Corpus Christi was April 30, and at Cove, April 28; spotted sandpiper at Rockport to May 5, and at Cove to May 4; house wren at Corpus Christi to April 30, and at Cove to May 4 (a week late); golden-crowned kinglet at Rockport to March 28, and at Cove to March 16; ruby-crowned kinglet at Corpus Christi to March 28, and at Cove to March 30; pipit at Corpus Christi to March 17, and at Cove to March 17; field sparrow at Rockport to April 1, and at Cove to March 30.

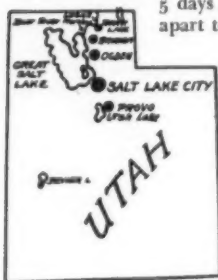
Arrivals.—First dates for summer visitors were generally normal, with a slight tendency toward lateness. There are always many curious anomalies in arrival dates. For example, the scissor-tailed flycatcher (a bird of conspicuous habits, and therefore not easily missed) was at Brownsville and Rockport on March 15, at Magnolia (40 miles northwest of Houston) on March 10, and at Victoria (60 miles north of Rockport) on March 19, but it did not appear in Houston till March 31, or in Cove until March 28. In contrast, the nighthawk (another conspicuous species) inundated the whole region in 2 days: Corpus Christi and Rockport on April 16, Victoria and Galveston on April 14. Other arrival dates that may interest northern observers: green heron, Rockport, March 2; chimney swift, Rockport, March 21; yellow-billed cuckoo, 25 miles north of Houston, March 17; eastern kingbird, Cove, April 1; crested flycatcher, Cove, March 30; purple martin, Houston, February 12; parula warbler, Brownsville, March 9, and Cove, March 16; summer tanager, Kemah, April 19.

Transients.—From the hundreds of items at hand, the following are chosen almost at random. Under "Rockport area" the "C" stands for Corpus Christi, and under "Cove area" the "H" stands for Houston, and the "K" for Kemah:

	Rockport area	Cove area
Wood pewee	Apr. 18	Apr. 14
Catbird	Apr. 18	Apr. 21
Wood thrush	Apr. 25	Apr. 13
Olive-backed thrush	Apr. 25	Apr. 23 H
Red-eyed vireo	Mar. 27	
Black and white warbler	Mar. 17 C	Mar. 15
Golden-winged warbler	Apr. 18	Apr. 23 H
Blue-winged warbler	Apr. 26 C	
Yellow warbler	Apr. 22	Apr. 29 K
Magnolia warbler	Apr. 26 C	Apr. 23 H
Black-thr. green warbler	Mar. 28	Apr. 7 K
Cerulean warbler	Apr. 18	Apr. 23 H
Blackburnian warbler	Apr. 18	Apr. 23 H
Chestnut-sided warbler	Apr. 26 C	Apr. 19 K
Kentucky warbler	Apr. 26 C	Apr. 19
Canada warbler	Apr. 25	Apr. 30 H
Redstart	Apr. 18	Apr. 19 K
Orchard oriole	Apr. 11	Apr. 6
Baltimore oriole	Apr. 19	Apr. 19 K
Scarlet tanager	Apr. 19	Apr. 19 K
Blue grosbeak	Apr. 17	Apr. 14
Indigo bunting	Apr. 13	Apr. 6

Rarities.—At Corpus Christi, Mr. Packard reported the following rare species: great white heron, April 17; black rail, March 26; white-throated swift, May 5 (also at Rockport the same day); Bohemian waxwing, May 5; Virginia's warbler, May 1; Swainson's warbler, March 29. Mrs. Hagar saw the bobolink at Rockport on April 22, and the hepatic tanager on May 5.—GEORGE G. WILLIAMS, *The Rice Institute, Houston, Texas.*

UTAH REGION.—The prolonged winter freeze broke in time to offer sufficient open water for the early waterfowl. However, cold storms lasting 4 or 5 days and coming about 3 weeks



apart tended to check temporarily the general upward trend of temperatures after February 1.

Waterfowl.—As usual, pintails were the earliest to arrive in any numbers; 500 at Decker's Lake on February 3 increased to 1000 on February 10, and then dwindled to 2 by February 17. On the same

dates other waterfowl numbers were: baldpate—3, 200, 7; shoveller—0, 100, 0; American merganser—25, 35, 1. Walter Woffinden, Utah County, reported the lesser snow goose flight to be good, with large flocks from February 15 to March 8; I noted fully 1000 birds in one flock west of Farmington Bay on February 22.

Early dates for 2 shorebirds—least sandpiper, 8, February 10, and greater yellow-legs, 6, February 17, both at Decker's Lake—may have been for birds that had wintered in this locality. A new influx of robins was noted on February 10, when over 100 were enumerated on an Audubon field trip. Warblers were 2 or 3 days earlier than usual.

On March 3, at the Sevier Bridge Reservoir in central Utah, I found a flock of nearly 1000 red-heads. A careful search revealed only 50 ducks of other species—mallard, pintail, and green-winged teal. They were concentrated near the shore in a narrow strip of open water less than a quarter of a mile long and averaging less than 100 yards wide. The rest of the reservoir was still frozen. The birds were very nervous; most of the males were courting; none was feeding, at least not diving.

Many of the dates below come from 3 personally conducted all-day surveys: on April 28, Payson, Utah, area from mouth of Payson canyon to south shore of Utah Lake (Dr. L. D. Pfouts, 3 friends, and 6 boy scouts, and my party of Florence Jessup, Gordon Taylor, and Bert Webb); on May 5, Davis County, from Meuller's Park recreational area to Farmington Bay (with Rex B. Snow, Taylor, and Webb); on June 2, south ends of Rush and Skull valleys and in vicinity of Lookout and Johnson passes (with Ellis R. Wilson, Taylor, and Webb). For observations made during these trips, the date indicates the locality.

Earliest observations.—On April 28, western grebe, 4; double-crested cormorant, 6; snowy egret, 6; bittern, 4; white-faced glossy ibis, 30. On March 24 at Decker's Lake (L.), white pelican, 90; cinnamon teal, pair. Whistling swans became common at the Bear River Refuge on March 24 and were last seen on May 2 (Van den Akker). A flock of sandhill

cranes was seen on March 22 and another on April 23, but neither stopped on the old dancing grounds near Saratoga (Woffinden).

Shorebirds: Wilson's snipe, March 12; long-billed curlew, March 26; avocet, March 6; spotted sandpiper, April 30; willet, April 8; lesser yellow-legs, March 12; stilt, April 9; long-billed dowitcher, March 24; marbled godwit, April 27; sanderling, May 25; Wilson's phalarope, April 29; northern phalarope, May 31. All of the foregoing were recorded at the Bear River Refuge (Van den Akker). Eight Baird's sandpipers were noted on the May 5 field trip.

Gulls and terns: California gull, February 20; herring gull, March 24; Bonaparte's gull, April 10; Franklin's gull, April 11; Caspian tern, April 10; Forster's tern, April 23; black tern, May 8. The foregoing observations were made at the Bear River Refuge (Van den Akker). Common terns were first seen on the April 28 field trip, but were not noted at Bear River until June 3.

Mourning dove, 25, burrowing owl, 2, nighthawk, 1, May 30 (Webb); black-chinned hummingbird, 1, May 30 (L.); broad-tailed hummingbird, 2, April 20 (Taylor); eastern kingbird, May 25 (L); western kingbird, May 28 (L.); ash-throated flycatcher, 2, Traill's flycatcher and gray flycatcher, June 2; Say's phoebe, March 23 (T.).

Swallows: violet-green, 2, April 14; tree, 100, April 28; bank, 5, May 5; rough-winged, 2, April 20 (T.); barn, 10, April 28; cliff, hundreds, May 5.

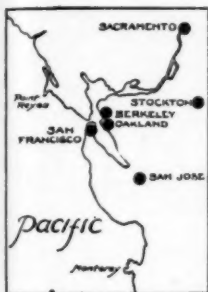
House wren, 1, mockingbird, 2, sage thrasher, 25, June 2; hermit thrush, 1, April 14; American pipit, 10 (last record), April 28; Bohemian waxwing, 120, March 24 (T.).

Plumbeous vireo, 1, April 28; warbling vireo, 4, May 5; orange-crowned warbler, 9, May 5; Virginia's warbler, 2 on April 28, 11 on May 5; Audubon's warbler, 3, April 28; yellow warbler, 3 on April 28, 20 on May 5; black-throated gray warbler, 20, June 2; Macgillivray's warbler, 1, May 24; yellow-throat, 1, May 5; chat, 1 on April 28, 2 on May 5.

Bobolink, 2, May 30; yellow-headed blackbird, 50, April 28; Bullock's oriole, 2, May 18; western tanager, 25, May 25 (E. R. Wilson); black-headed grosbeak, 3, May 5; lazuli bunting, 3 on April 28, 20 on May 5; evening grosbeak, common in eastern section of town from April 26 to May 15 (T.), and a flock of 50 at Payson on April 28.

Sparrows: savannah, 20, April 28; vesper, 1, April 20 (T.); lark, 10, April 28; desert, 5, June 2; chipmunk, 1, April 14; Brewer's, April 28; white-crowned, April 28; fox, 1, April 1 (T.).—C. W. LOCKERBIE, 223 West 9th South St., Salt Lake City 4, Utah.

SAN FRANCISCO REGION.—Again the advance of spring was delayed. April and May were dry, and streams generally remained low. The continued cold, with late frosts, impeded growth of plants, but it also delayed their drying. The slow growth



continued much longer than was anticipated. A few warm days in late April hastened the drying of plants, but enough moisture remained for continued growth through May. By May 6 most of the annual grasses were brown on exposed slopes. Along with these conditions insects were few or not active. A general impression, based mainly on

observations at one locality in the coastal mountains, was that birds were less numerous than they have been in other years. The general absence of morning fogs there, however, may have made better conditions for some birds, especially for quail nesting. Broods of newly hatched young showed exceptionally high survival.

There were few reports of water birds for April and May. On April 17 Mrs. Kelly saw large numbers of western sandpipers and found all shorebirds numerous at Alameda. Other reports of special interest this season follow: black-footed albatross, Cypress Point, Monterey County, 17 seen from land at extremity of point on May 24 (Williams, R. W. Storer); white pelican, King Island, near Stockton, 60 circling on April 7 (Johnston); green heron, Point Lobos, 1 on April 16 (W.); white-fronted goose, King Island, 3 on April 7 (J.); Wilson's snipe, Carmel River mouth, 1 on April 26 (W.).

Winter birds were slow to leave, although many species were represented by smaller than usual numbers; the recording of presence or departure was thus made uncertain. The departure dates following seemed to represent the region: varied thrush, Hastings Reservation, April 10 (Riney); hermit thrush, Carmel, last date April 18 for a wintering individual continuously observed at a locality where the species does not occur as a summer resident (Williams), Stockton, April 21 (Johnston), migrating bird in Arroyo Mocho, April 26 (Seibert); cedar waxwing, Berkeley, May 18 (S.). Stockton, May 24 (J.); Townsend's warbler, Carmel Highlands, April 10 (W.); golden-crowned sparrow, Carmel, May 2 (W.), Stockton, May 10 (J.); white-throated sparrow, Hastings Reservation, April 14 (Linsdale); fox sparrow, Carmel, April 14 (W.), Hastings Reservation, May 3 (Finley).

Arrival of summer birds may have been earlier than the records indicated because their quiet manner made them hard to find. Possibly some of them did not stay where conditions were severe in early days after their arrival. First dates were reported as follows: white-throated swift, Berkeley, April 10 (Pitelka); western kingbird, Hastings Reservation, April 5 (D. Linsdale); ash-throated flycatcher, Hastings Reservation, April 16 (Linsdale), along Calaveras River, in Stockton, April 19 (Johnston); west-

ern flycatcher, Berkeley, April 7 (Carter); purple martin, Hastings Reservation, April 10 (L.), east of Mount Hamilton, April 18 (Seibert); russet-backed thrush, Berkeley, April 20 (Miller), Carmel, April 24 (Williams); solitary vireo, Berkeley, April 21 (P.); yellow warbler, Carmel, April 11 (W.); Tolmie's warbler, Berkeley, April 20 (M.); cowbird, Stockton, April 10 (J.); blue grosbeak, Stockton, April 30 (J.); chipping sparrow, Hastings Reservation, April 5 (Riney), Stockton, April 18 (J.).

A prominent quality of the behavior of birds during this period was their tendency to remain quiet and inactive on cool days or after cold nights. This applied especially to the summer birds and made them late to nest or indifferent in maintaining nesting activities. Numerous records showed various stages of nesting for the following species: marsh hawk, King Island, near Stockton, 2 building nest in barley field on April 7, male bringing nest material (Johnston); mourning dove, Arroyo Mocho, nest with eggs on April 19 (Seibert); black phoebe, Hastings Reservation, nest started April 2, first egg April 18, 4 young hatched by May 7, young left nest May 23 (D. Linsdale); Say's phoebe, Arroyo Mocho, nest with 5 eggs on May 12 (J.); tree swallow, near Woodbridge, nesting in peach trees on April 28 (J.); California jay, Hastings Reservation, nest barely started on April 4, completed by April 16, first egg laid on April 21, first of 4 young hatched on May 11 (D. L.), east of Mount Hamilton, newly hatched young on April 18, Oakland, nest with eggs on April 21 (S.); California thrasher, east of Mount Hamilton, nest ready for eggs on April 18 (S.); blue-gray gnatcatcher, east of Mount Hamilton, nests with no eggs and nests with 4 eggs on May 11 (S.); phainopepla, Arroyo Mocho, pair building nest on April 17 (Kelly); Hutton's vireo, Oakland Hills, nest with small young, May 5 (S.); purple finch, Mills College, female building nest, May 12 (S.); Bell's sparrow, east of Mount Hamilton, nests with no eggs to nests with 4 eggs, May 11 (S.); Oregon junco, Mills College, nest with 4 eggs, May 12 (S.); black-chinned sparrow, near Mount Hamilton, nest with 2 eggs, May 11 (S.); white-crowned sparrow, Berkeley, feeding young on April 21 (Sibley); song sparrow, Oakland, young out of nest on April 27 (Seibert).

The following species are either strictly transients or birds whose status has been slightly changed through observations in recent years: chestnut-backed chickadee, Wildcat Canyon, Berkeley, April 6 and 14 (Marshall); hermit thrush, male singing in Redwood Regional Park, Contra Costa County, May 5 (Seibert); yellow-breasted chat, Carmel, singing almost daily in one small area from May 7 to June 2 (Williams); hooded oriole, Carmel, May 2, first record for the area (W.); western tanager, Berkeley, April 25 (Reynolds), east of Mount Hamilton, May 11 (S.), Stockton, May 11 (Johnston). —JEAN M. LINSDALE, Hastings Reservation, Jamesburg Route, Monterey, Calif.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION.—After a dry winter, the gentle but repeated rains of late March and April 1-2 brought the season's total rainfall nearly to normal. There were no severe storms to effect migration except in the mountains where late snows delayed arrivals—and incidentally interrupted nesting of some residents.



Geese.—There was a small flight in January. Flocks were heard over Pasadena, January 8 and

22, February 19, and March 10 and 25 (Young), and a small flock seen on January 25 (Quattlebaum). White-fronted goose, 32 over Charlton Flat, January 20 (Murdoch, *et al.*), and 1 found dead, February 9, Pasadena (Q.). Snow goose, 200-300 over Altadena in March (Fletcher). Whistling swan, 5 at Cuyamaca Lake, January 29 (Stott), 5 migrating (and "tumbling") over Pasadena, April 2 (Cogswell), and 1000 over Coachella Valley, April 7 (A. Morgan, Stultz, *et al.*).

Hawks.—An excellent flight of turkey vultures began on February 11, and the main migration from March 3 to April 15 reached a maximum of 800+ on March 31 at Sunland. Most of them followed the base of the San Gabriel Mountains. Swainson's hawks had a very poor flight from March 31 to April 29, with a maximum of 13 on the latter date at Sierra Madre (Kent).

Shorebirds.—Diminution of wintering populations began slowly in late March; a slight resurgence of transients was evident in the Seal Beach-Newport area on April 20 (Dr. deLaubenfels). Most of these were gone by May 25.

Along the rocky Palos Verdes coast, Mr. Shuart made a peak count of 46 black turnstones on April 6, and a second peak of 32 on the 27th. Hudsonian curlews also reached a peak of 250 on April 27th (in alfalfa field), along with 19 spotted sandpipers and 14 wandering tattlers. The last surf-birds were seen on April 6 at Palos Verdes, and April 18 at Playa del Rey, with the last 2 ruddy turnstones.

There were several reports of Wilson's phalaropes: 11 (2♂, 9♀), April 21, Baldwin Lake (C.); 2♀, May 5, Playa del Rey (Shuart); 1♂, May 12, Santa Monica beach (C.).

Terns.—Migrating Forster's (22) were reported at Santa Monica, May 12. The season's only black tern was seen at Bolsa Chica on May 15 (Whiting).

Pelagic birds.—Seen in the channel between San Pedro and Catalina Island: March 23 (Stultz)—sooty shearwater, 15; pink-footed shearwater, 9; fulmar, 1; parasitic jaeger, 1; April 11 (Kent)—pink-footed shearwater, 6; fulmar, 3; black petrel (Seal Rocks), 2; parasitic jaeger, 2; May 12 (Cogswell)—sooty shearwater, 2; red (?) phalarope, 20;

bald eagle (Seal Rocks), 1. Between Santa Catalina and San Clemente Islands, June 3, there were several black (or ashy) petrels and many black-footed albatrosses (Galen Smith). Noteworthy were 6 white pelicans migrating parallel to the coast offshore from L. A. harbor, June 3 (G. S.).

Swifts.—Vaux's appeared on April 20, with 2 at Pasadena (C.); 27th, Pearlblossom (Rett); 29th, 75 (K.) and May 1, 100 (C.), both at Sierra Madre; last, May 4, 2 at La Mesa (Crouch). There were 8 black swifts over Altadena, May 13 (Fletcher).

Hummingbirds.—The black-chinned hummingbird was below normal in numbers, but both it and Costa's arrived on time, March 16 and 25 respectively. The first Allen's was seen on February 25, Sunland (Shearer); March 15-31, many records throughout, the peak of migration thus coming after the species had a nest with young (March 16) at Santa Barbara (R.). The first rufous was some 2 weeks late on March 3; common from March 30 to April 28 and 1 very late male, May 26, at Chilao.

Swallows.—The first definitely migrating violet-greens were seen on January 26 and occasionally through February. A big flight, March 3, at Ocean-side with thousands of violet-greens and trees, hundreds of cliffs and barns, and a few rough-wings, was followed by the widespread arrival of nesting cliff swallows on March 12-16. Repeated waves of violet-greens reached peaks on March 11, 19, and 24 (Rett). There were 1000 migrant cliffs, April 1, at Banning (Wilson). Most spectacular was a late flight of 20,000+ tree swallows, April 6, in Imperial Valley. Still later migrants were seen at Riverside, May 10—violet-green, 400+, barn, 17, rough-winged, 8, and also 50 rough-wings, May 13, at Banning.

Thrushes.—Most robins left the coastal valleys about April 1, 3 at Cushenbury Springs, April 21, and 5 at Banning, April 25, being the last in non-breeding areas. First russet-backed thrush, April 20, Vermont Canyon, L. A. (K.); May 2, San Diego (Crouch); general arrival on May 6-7; night migrants heard over Pasadena, May 16 (Q.).

Vireos.—The first warbling vireos arrived on March 21 at Pasadena, March 24 at Santa Barbara, and migrants were still in the Salton Sea area on April 6. First solitary, March 31, Pasadena; still migrating through Arcadia foothills, April 22. First least, April 25, East San Diego (Crouch). Gray vireo, singing, May 18, Cushenbury Grade (northern side of San Bernardino Mts.), 3 miles from 1913 breeding area (deL.).

Warblers.—All species were far below normal, and there were no definite waves. First arrivals were normal, but the main migration started late.

Rarities.—A skua was seen among gulls at Santa Monica beach on February 10 and 20 (Mrs. Stultz, Allen Morgan, *et al.*). Equally unusual in a desert type area were 3 band-tailed pigeons, May 1, 30 miles east of Banning in Morongo Valley (Wilson). —HOWARD L. COGSWELL, 3807 Sierra Grande St., Pasadena 8, Calif.